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To: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

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Subject: MLPAComments: SMPAs

I am an avid scuba-diver and underwater photographer. I dive primarily in Monterey/Carmel, with a personal preference with the Carmel side, as I most often dive from the beach. Point Lobos and Carmel River Beach are striking in their beauty, but also in the obvious difference in size and number of fish. Point Lobos simply has a significantly greater biomass. As a photographer, fish in plentiful numbers is the primary reason I dive. As a Californian and a father of four, knowing we are willing to make the difficult decision to protect our environmental legacy is very important.

I listened to Jesus Ruiz discuss the SMPA selection process at last years NCUPS Beach Dive Photography Competition and have followed the issue in various internet forums since then. I have reviewed the maps under consideration at <http://www.californiamarinereserves.org/maps.html>. I have exchanged email about Rockfish reproduction needs with Dr. Milton Love. My dive buddy and I regularly send photos to Tom Laidig for his juvenile rockfish census. There are certainly more things I should do to educate myself as to the health and well-being of our groundfish fishery, however, all these things I have done lead me to believe that we need to take a firm stand for conservation while we try to back away from the precipice of a barren ocean. The only proposal I see that does this is Package #2. I strongly encourage its adoption. To this end, I would like to both thank the "non-extractive" stakeholders for their hard work, and relate the them that this constituent wants them to continue to press for Package #2 as drawn, without further modification.

Regards

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